

Pitts Spoke on Love and Diversity at Luncheon

FOUNDATION RECAP FEB. 15

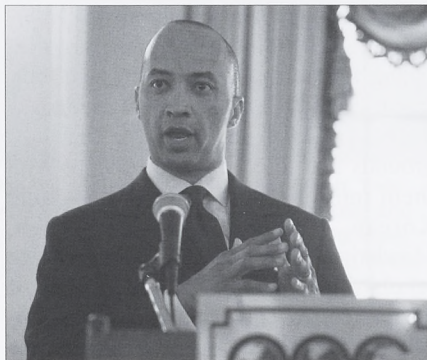
by Aimee Rinehart

Byron Pitts, CBS News national correspondent, said the key ingredient to being a reporter is humility. "I don't interview people," Pitts said. "I have a conversation. You're often talking to people at the worst time of their life. It's important to remember to be humble and respect people."

Pitts spoke to the nearly 250 people assembled for the 17th annual Overseas Press Club Foundation Scholarship Luncheon at the Yale Club. Pitts has been based stateside for CBS news since 1998, but has gone far and wide to cover the war in Afghanistan, the military buildup in Kuwait, the Florida fires, the Elian Gonzalez story, the Florida recount, the mudslides in Central America and the refugee crisis in Kosovo, among many other stories.

Pitts invoked the notion of love. "The kind of love you feel in the people you cover," Pitts said. "Love not of fame or prestige, but love of truth, of decency and of words."

After his speech, Pitts took questions from the audience and spoke about the absolute need for diversity in the press corps. He also returned to the idea of humility, saying that being humble is



Byron Pitts

another plug for diversity.

"There's a real benefit when you bring diverse voices to the table," Pitts said. "When a reporter is close to the subject, they don't report as an exercise, they report because it's personal. This makes

the story more real for the audience."

He recounted the coverage of Hurricane Katrina and how reporters repeatedly confused the story of people from New Orleans stating that "babies" were being killed in the Louisiana Superdome. It took a local reporter from the *Times Picayune* and a CBS News reporter who was originally from the area, to understand that "baby" is a reference to people in general, not exclusively children. This insight changed the misinformation and underscores for Pitts the necessity for diversity in newsrooms.

Pitts was asked if a reporter can be too close to the subject and skew the reporting. Pitts said that he relies on his grandmother's wisdom, "The truth may be

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Russia Insists Reporter's Death Was Suicide

PRESS FREEDOM

by Larry Martz

"The investigator...decided to close the investigation due to the 'lack of any criminal event.' There is no reason to change this decision at this time."

So went the Russian government's letter to the OPC's Freedom of the Press Committee, a typically legalistic and bureaucratic non-response to an urgent question: Was Ivan Safronov the fourteenth journalist to be murdered since Vladimir Putin became president?

From the beginning, Russian authorities seemed determined that the mysterious death of Safronov, a seasoned investigative reporter for the feisty newspaper *Kommersant*, was a suicide. On March 2, 2007, Safronov had returned to his Moscow apartment from a grocery shopping trip and walked up the stairs; his body was found below the fourth-story window of the stairwell. His bag of gro-

ceries lay on the landing beside the window; oranges had rolled down the stairs.

Safronov had infuriated Russia's military establishment with exclusive stories about corruption in military contracts. Most recently, he had broken the story that a new intercontinental ballistic missile had failed to launch for the third straight time. Military commanders denied any problems with the missile and threatened Safronov with legal action.

After the death, prosecutors immediately suggested it was suicide. But according to his colleagues, Safronov was a happily married father of two with a successful career and everything to live for. Andrei Vassilyev, *Kommersant*'s editor, told Reuters: "I have known him for 10 years and this [suicide] is absolutely not in his character. Everything was fine with him."

The OPC committee wrote Putin on March 6 to ask for a full investigation of

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Pitts Spoke on Love and Diversity at 2008 Scholarship Luncheon

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funny, it may be painful, but good people can always manage the truth."

Before lunch, *New York Times* reporter and 1998 OPC scholarship winner Damien Cave spoke. He said there is no clear path to being a foreign correspondent but that winning the scholarship gave him a vote of confidence in pursuing his dream of reporting from abroad.

Cave recently wrote an article that ran in the *The New York Times* Sunday Styles section. He said he requested this particular section to bring the reporting and strain of war coverage to a wider audience. Cave and his wife Diana Oliva Cave, who is a multimedia journalist for the *Times*, reported from Iraq this past year. Cave's January 20 article relays what it's like to be on assignment covering a war with a spouse.

Cave said that while journalism has a new set of tools, the fundamentals of reporting are the same. "Now is an exciting time to be a journalist," Cave said.

The 2008 winners, eight graduate students and four undergraduate students, were selected from a pool of applicants from 65 different colleges and universities. The winners come from Oberlin College, Indiana University, Yale University, Columbia University, Harvard University, New York University and the University

of Oxford. Five of this year's winners also earned internships through the Foundation's partnership relationships with the Associated Press, Reuters, *Cambodia Daily* and *South China Morning Post*. The Foundation will pay for the recipients' travel and living expenses for one month as they work in foreign bureaus.

The winners each had a turn to address the audience after receiving their scholarship award and thanked the OPC for providing the funds to help them take their careers to the next level. The winners [see page 3] came from a variety of backgrounds and interests, and brought with them multiple languages that include Korean, Russian, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Arabic and Swahili. The twelve scholarships were given in the names of veteran correspondents and news organizations. This year for the first time, the OPC Foundation presented the Standard and Poor's Award for Economic and Business Reporting. The first recipient was Yu Sun of New York University.

Pitts closed in a direct address to scholarship winners with a quote from Horace Mann, who worked toward egalitarian and humanitarian values. "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity." Remember, it's not what you take but what you give."

The Overseas Press Club Foundation is especially grateful for its Patrons and Friends who supported the 2008 Scholarship Luncheon. Their contributions ensure the continued success of our scholarship/internship program.

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2008 OPC Foundation Scholarship Winners



Left to right, sitting, Mayank S. Bubna, New York University; Alexandra Suich, Yale; Sheila B. Lalwani, Harvard; Sarah Mishkin, Yale; Devon A. Haynie, Columbia; and Mariano Castillo, Columbia; standing, Jerry Guo, Yale; Yu Sun, NYU; Max Strasser, Oberlin; Ben Weller, Indiana University; Paul Sonne, Oxford; and Rollo Romig, NYU.

The following is a list of the 2008 scholarship recipients, their affiliations, the prize they won, the presenter, and a brief description of their winning applications. The winners emerged from a highly competitive selection process consisting of nearly 160 applicants from 65 colleges and universities.

Max Strasser
Oberlin College
ALEXANDER KENDRICK SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Daimler.

Presented by Andrea Berg, Daimler

Conversant in Spanish, German and Arabic, the Oberlin junior spent the fall in Jordan mastering the language, culture and politics of the Middle East. He wrote about a Jordanian Islamic politician attempting to bring about social change through legislation, not revolution. He believes that it is important – although unlikely – that the U.S. recognize democratic Islamic parties as legitimate political actors and accept their right to participate.

Ben Weller
Indiana University
DAVID R. SCHWEISBERG SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by the Schweisberg Family.

*Presented by his brother,
Matthew Schweisberg*

Weller is the recipient of a 2008 OPC Foundation internship and will

spend the summer at the Reuters bureau in Seoul, Korea, where he once lived and taught school. The graduate of Duke University – whose parents ran an Indiana newspaper – was born with “ink in his veins” and intends to launch his photojournalism career in Asia. A graduate student in journalism at Indiana University, he wrote of the need for the international press to cover the destabilizing forces within and flowing from Burma.

Jerry Guo
Yale University
REUTERS SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by Reuters.

Presented by Betty Wong, Global Head of Editorial Operations, and Managing Editor, Americas

Guo’s interests range from economic growth in his native China to environmental damage in South America. A junior at Yale, he wrote about the under-reported consequence of global warming on the equator, the massive infestation of invasive species that upset the region’s fragile ecosystem; specifically, his own experiences observing the efforts of park rangers in the Galapagos Islands to control the islands’ population of feral goats.

Mariano Castillo
Columbia University
HARPER’S MAGAZINE SCHOLARSHIP in memory of I.F.Stone

Endowed by John R. MacArthur and the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust.

Presented by Bill Holstein

A graduate of Texas A&M, Castillo’s essay was about his own experiences covering the drug wars on the Mexican boarder. While violence against the media had curtailed the coverage of drug murders in the Mexican press, Mariano followed the story – amid threats to his own safety – so others will understand the devastating effects of drug cartels on border cities. He is now a candidate for a master’s degree in international affairs at Columbia University. He has also won an OPC Foundation internship and will spend the summer at a Reuters bureau in Latin America.

Sheila B. Lalwani
Harvard University
IRENE CORBALLY KUHN SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by the Scripps Howard Foundation. Presented by John Howard-Potter.

Fluent in German and Hindi, proficient in Arabic, and armed with a master’s degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government, the Indiana University graduate intends to cover the nuances of world affairs. In her essay, Lalwani wrote about honor killings and the absence of empathy in the German Turkish community for a young woman whose brothers murdered her for leaving a forced marriage.

Mayank S. Bubna
New York University
H.L. STEVENSON SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by donations from family and friends. Presented by Bill Holstein.

Bubna’s experiences in Somalia, Sri Lanka, Ghana, and Burma have only fueled his interest in becoming a war correspondent. A graduate of Carnegie Mellon, he is now pursuing a master’s degree in political science at New York University. In his essay, Bubna wrote about the chaos that now comprise everyday life in Mogadishu and the need for the world to pay attention to areas of conflict even after the “story becomes old news.”

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St. Bride's Re-dedication and Visit From the Queen

by Sonya K. Fry

To say that you are a "fan" of the Queen of England is not an appropriate term – how about "devoted follower?" As a young girl growing up in nowheresville, Connecticut I cut out pictures of the royal family while my friends were reading movie magazines and joining fan clubs. I eagerly sought after pictures of a beautiful young princess as she traveled around the world. This was a *Life* magazine world, not a *People* magazine world.

When she was notified of her Father's death at Treetops Lodge in Africa it all spoke to me of exotic places and high drama. Her coronation in 1953, when I was in fifth grade, was a highlight of my childhood. My family did not yet own a television set so after school my Mother drove me to a friend's house where we sat in the glow of that machine and watched the most incredible pictures of a ceremony that happened worlds away. As I recall, the tape had to



Queen Elizabeth on her way into the re-dedication of St. Bride's Church.



OPC Executive Director Sonya K. Fry, second from left, with leaders of the London Press Club.

Photo: David Rochelle

be flown over to the States. In a world of satellite television, hundreds of flights to all parts of the world and instantaneous-everything these days it is hard to imagine the awe with which we viewed the coronation of a queen in our living rooms.

So when my friends at the London Press Club told me that they had invited the Queen to attend the Fiftieth anniversary of the re-dedication of St. Bride's Church on Fleet Street in late November, I said that I must be invited. St. Bride's Church, located in the district of St. Paul's Cathedral, was heavily bombed during the war. The Christopher Wren church was re-built with its famous wedding cake steeple and Princess Elizabeth dedicated the journalist's church.

Since my friends at the London Press Club knew how much I wanted to meet the Queen they moved heaven and earth to get me an invitation. Once I was safely ensconced in a pew at St. Bride's Church I realized just how difficult getting an invitation was. There were precious few seats for

LPC members. David Selves, Director, put it this way "The saga behind the event would make an hour sitcom which was changing on the hoof!"

I felt privileged to be seated diagonally across from the Queen and Prince Philip and felt goose bumps when we stood to sing "God Save the Queen." I never thought I would sing that song to her directly. For me, it was a lovely moment of fulfillment (as hokey as that sounds).

The only disappointment came at the reception when I was assigned to be introduced to Prince Philip. The room had been divided up into two teams and I was not on the Queen's team. When she entered the smaller room that housed an exhibition of front page covers featuring the Queen, she began to speak to the journalists and even shake their hands (not a curtsy in sight) I was sure she would meet everyone in that room. But at the last minute, one of her handlers whisked her out a side door and down the hall before I could gasp my sigh of disappointment.



PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

BAGHDAD:

"The easiest thing in the world to write about is combat, because all the drama is there." That comment came from **Michael Yon**, a reporter who works for no news organization but who has spent more time embedded with combat units in Iraq than any other journalist. A U.S. Special Forces soldier more than two decades ago,



Michael Yon

Yon, 43 went to Iraq three years ago believing that the mainstream news media were bungling the story, and he often criticizes the media's pessimism. He files his dispatches and photos on his Web site *michaelyon-online.com*, and some of them will be published in a book in April. His photo of an American soldier cradling an Iraqi girl who was injured in a car bombing and later died appeared on *Time* magazine's Web site. "He says that contributions from his readers have paid most of his costs, though he declines to say how much they have given," *New York Times* correspondent **Richard Pérez-Peña** wrote.

BEIJING: Hong Kong journalist **Ching Cheong**, 58, was released from jail after serving less than half of a five-year sentence on charges of spying for Taiwan, the Hong Kong government announced on February 5. He returned to Hong Kong in time to spend Chinese New Year with his family. A correspondent for the Singapore *Straits Times*, Ching was arrested in April 2005 in Guangzhou (Canton), a southern Chinese city. Xinhua, China's state-run news agency, said he confessed to gathering information about China's political, economic and military affairs to pass to Taiwan intelligence officials. His family and the *Straits Times* denied the charges.

BRUSSELS: The International News Safety Institute (INSI) has set up a global hostage crisis help center to pro-

vide guidance when a journalist is kidnapped. **Rodney Pinder**, the Institute's director, said, "More journalists than ever are being kidnapped, drawing more news organizations and families into nightmare scenarios. This service, backed by people who have been there, will provide some basic advice and guidance on what best to do." The crisis center is supported by BBC, CNN, NBC, AP TV, Al Jazeera, Brazil's TV Global, the Rory Peck Trust, the Dart Centre for Journalism and Trauma, and individual journalists who have been kidnapped including **Alan Johnston** of BBC, who was held hostage in Gaza for 114 days last year; **Anita McNaught**, freelance TV producer and her cameraman husband **Olag Wig**, who was held in Gaza for 13 days in 2006; and **Tina Susman**, who was held captive for 20 days in Somalia in 1994.

In the Philippines, INSI's Southeast Asia office is teaching journalists how to remain safe while covering combat or riots and how to administer first aid to injured colleagues. The first training session was held late last year in the hilltop resort of Baras. Journalists from Indonesia, Philippines, Timor and Thailand attended. "I have learned a lot about how to keep safe while working,"

Aria Fabella, a producer at GMA 7, a Philippine TV network, said. Obtain details from **Adrien Collin** at adrien.collin@newssafety.com



Three international news organizations wrote to the president of the U.N. Security Council to report that in the first year since December 23, 2006, when the Council passed a resolution on protecting journalists in armed conflicts, at least 170 media staff have died while covering the news in 35 countries. "We strongly believe that the rising death toll could be arrested effectively if States where journalists are killed were to apply their existing laws vigorously whenever a journalist is murdered," the letter said. The letter was signed by officials of the International News Safety Institute, the International Federation of Journalists and the European Broadcasting Union.

HONG KONG: The Foreign Correspondents' Club raised more than HK\$8 million (about U.S.\$1 million – that's right, one million U.S. bucks!) in

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GLOBAL: **Damien Cave** won the 1998 OPC Foundation's I. F. Stone Scholarship with an essay titled "10 Reasons Why the OPC Should Send Damien Cave to Paraguay." Well, after that boost from the OPC Foundation, he became a foreign correspondent and a war correspondent. For *The New York Times* Damien and his wife, **Diana Oliva Cave**, a *Times* videographer, reported from Iraq last year. In a long article in the January 20 Sunday *Times*, Damien wrote that war reporting could bring a married couple closer together when it wasn't pushing them apart. He wrote, "There are a lot of things Diana and I didn't know when we came to Iraq at the beginning of last year – that it's harder to see your spouse at risk than yourself, or that you can grow apart even when you sit 10 feet from each other every day because the work is so consuming." The Caves received many questions from friends and relatives asking what it was like in Iraq. "We're still learning how to respond. Our emotions are still raw, and it may take years to know how the war has affected us." They recently moved to Miami.



Diana Oliva Cave and Damien Cave in Iraq.

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contributions from sponsors and donors at its 6th annual Charity Ball last year. The money funds scholarships for underprivileged Hong Kong children. Featuring Brazilian music and dances, the 2007 ball was attended by Club members and guests from Moscow, London, Paris, Los Angeles, Zurich, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Perth, Sydney, Brisbane, Nairobi, Mauritius and Johannesburg. Club President **Christopher Slaughter** called the contributions "staggeringly impressive."



FCC Charity Ball

ISLAMABAD: Nicholas Schmidle, who wrote in *The New York Times Magazine* about the rise of pro-Taliban militants in Pakistan, has been expelled from the country. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said Pakistan's Interior Minister issued the deportation order two days after the January 6 article appeared. He left voluntarily. The government said Schmidle, a visiting scholar at Pakistan's state-run Institute of Strategic Studies, lacked a journalist's visa. His article was based on interviews with officials, clerics and fugitive militant leaders in the Swat Valley and tribal areas along the Afghan border. Journalists must obtain permission from the Interior Ministry before traveling to those areas.



Ten journalists who were reporting events following the December 27 assassination of Benazir Bhutto have been arrested under anti-terrorism and riot laws, according to the Pakistani Federal Union of Journalists. The arrested reporters said they were falsely implicated in the public unrest and rioting that they simply were covering. In a January letter to Pakistan President Pervez

Musharraf, **Larry Martz** and **Norman A. Schorr**, co-chairs of the OPC Press Freedom Committee wrote that evidence against the accused should be made public or the journalists released.

KINONDONI, Tanzania: Three thugs forced their way into the office of the weekly *Mwanahalisi* on January 5 and beat publisher **Saeed Kubenea** and editor **Ndimara Tegambwage** with iron bars and machetes and threw acid in their faces. "There seems little doubt that this barbaric attack was in reprisal for *Mwanahalisi's* recent exposes of official corruption," **Larry Martz** and **Norman A. Schorr**, co-chairs of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee, wrote to Tanzania President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. Kubenea, who lost his sight as a result of the attack, said from his hospital bed, "I was warned that I would be killed if I did not stop meddling in people's business." Tegambwage suffered head injuries requiring 15 stitches.

LOS ANGELES: Kathy Eldon has selected **Daniel Radcliffe**, star of the Harry Potter films, to play the part of her son, **Dan Eldon** in an upcoming movie. On assignment in Somalia for Reuters, Dan, 22, and three other journalists were stoned and beaten to death by a mob in Mogadishu in 1993 while photographing a house bombed by U.S. troops who thought a warlord was there. But instead 74 innocent men, women and children were killed. Dan left behind 17 journals that were compiled into *The Journey Is the Destination* that has sold nearly 200,000 copies since its publication 10 years ago and will be the basis of the movie.

OPC member Eldon, a journalist and producer, rejected several bids for film rights to her son's story and turned down several actors before she met Radcliffe, 18, and his parents. "The timing is right and I couldn't ask for more," Eldon said. "He has portrayed a magician for years and my Dan was a different kind of magician. There are parallels in the two Dans' lives. Daniel Radcliffe is a poet, he keeps journals and he's half Jewish. He has puckishness, sense of humor and energy inside which remind me of Dan."

MANILA: After working as a reporter in UPI's Manila bureau and later for the U.N. High Commissioner for

Refugees in Geneva and war-torn Kosovo, **Fernando (Boy) del Mundo** is back home working for the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* as a desk editor and head of special investigative projects. "I was sorting out my UPI files last week," he wrote in a December e-mail to the *Bulletin*, "and came across the paper **Don Becker** signed hiring me in 1966 at the fabulous salary of 300 pesos (about U.S.\$100) a month."

MELVILLE, New York: OPC member **Matthew McAllester** has left *Newsday* after 13 years, most of them as a foreign correspondent, and now is a contributing editor at *Details* magazine while freelancing for other publications. *Newsday* has closed all its foreign bureaus. Matt covered conflicts in Kosovo, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Nigeria and Turkey. He was based in the Middle East for four years and then moved to London, where he worked as a roving correspondent. McAllester has written books on Kosovo and Iraq and now is working on a memoir of his mother and her cooking that will be published by the Dial Press imprint of Random House.

MUNICH: OPC member and Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, **Horst Faas** was back home in February after spending nearly four months in a Munich clinic while a wound healed on his lower back. Faas will be 75 in April.

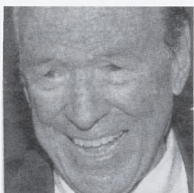
NEW YORK: The OPC Freedom of the Press Committee sends letters almost weekly to governments that appear to infringe on media freedom. Most of the replies to the committee deny press restrictions or promise to investigate, and they usually are politely written. But not so when **Jeremy Main** and **Kevin McDermott** wrote to the president of Malawi that the Club "deplores the apparent effort of your government to muzzle Malawian media that publicize the views of your opponents in advance of elections in 2009."

Dr. Hetherwick Ntata, chief political advisor to the president of the southeastern African nation, fired back with a blistering letter in December: "This notion [muzzling the media] is outrageously false and is a clear testimony of how hopelessly ill informed your organization is about Malawi. In fact the whole letter

is full of such blatant misrepresentations and non truths that I wonder if you ever take the trouble to check the validity of the reports which you receive or to verify the professional integrity of those that send you the reports. . . . We challenge you to come and see for yourself if you can confirm these lies which you seem to hold as gospel truths. Failure to do so may reduce your club into a gang of misinformed media enthusiasts."

Main and McDermott replied politely: "Thank you for your letter of December 21, 2007 and for taking the trouble to answer in detail our letter to President Mutharika last November 13. While we do not think Malawi is by any means among the worst offenders against press freedom, and we do not have the detailed knowledge that would come from firsthand experience, we are confident of our ground for writing as we did."

CBS News correspondent **Mike Wallace** underwent triple bypass heart surgery in January. Wallace, an OPC member, was "recovering nicely" and doctors described the surgery as "a great success," the *New York Post* wrote, quoting a CBS spokesman. Wallace, 89, is the oldest correspondent on 60 Minutes. He was outfitted with a pacemaker more than 20 years ago.



Mike Wallace

A burglar broke into **Leslie Stahl's** Manhattan apartment January 25 and made off with \$100,000 in valuables including a diamond watch, pearls, bracelets, earrings and her laptop computer. Stahl, a CBS News 60 Minutes correspondent, was not home at the time. The burglar, posing as a construction worker, apparently crept onto the roof of Stahl's West 77th Street building and smashed a rooftop patio door leading to her bedroom.

Keith Richburg, a veteran foreign correspondent for *The Washington Post*,

now is the paper's New York bureau chief after serving as its foreign editor in Washington. Richburg was the *Post's* African bureau chief based in Nairobi 1991 to 1994 and then reported from Hong Kong, where he was president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, 1997 to 1998. He has reported from East Timor and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. After traveling throughout Africa reporting on wars, famines, mass murders and political corruption, he wrote *Out of America: A Black Man Confronts Africa* in which he concludes that he is simply an American, not an African-American.

Joseph B. Treaster, 66, whose 2,753 *New York Times* bylined dispatches were filed from places as far flung as Havana, Port-au-Prince, Amman, Baghdad, Cairo, and other points in the United States and abroad, left *The Times* in February to teach at the University of Miami's School of Communications. Winner of three OPC awards, Treaster began as a *Times* correspondent in Vietnam, and for that paper and national magazines he has reported from Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Panama. He covered hurricanes in Louisiana and Florida, drug trafficking in Latin America and insurance shenanigans in New York. Treaster is married to **Barbara J. Dill**, a former lawyer for *The Times* who writes and lectures on libel law.

◆
The Wall Street Journal, now owned by **Rupert Murdoch's** News Corporation, plans to launch a weekly lifestyle magazine this autumn. **Tina Gaudoin**, editor of the *Times* of London's *Luxx* magazine, has been selected to be editor of the new magazine, the *New York Post* reported. She started her career at the *Tatler* and worked in the United States at *Harper's Bazaar* and *Vogue*, where she was a senior writer. "I look forward to bringing the world of *The Journal* reader to life, with the help of intelligent reporting, arresting visuals and a sense of humor," the *Post* quoted Gaudoin. **Tomaso Capuano**, the *Times* London art director, will work on the design of the magazine that will be inserted into *The Journal's* weekend edition beginning September 6.

NIAMEY, Niger: French TV cameraman **Pierre Creisson** and reporter **Thomas Dandois** have been charged with threatening state security in trying to report on Tuareg rebels in Niger, an offense punishable by death. They were arrested while compiling a report for the French-German television network Arte. After charges were filed, each man paid \$22,000 in bail and they were released and returned to Paris. The government has barred foreigners and reporters from entering northern Niger since the resurgence of an ethnic Tuareg rebellion last year.

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OPC Is the Place to Be: *BizBash* magazine ranked more than 130,000 events held in New York City last year, and the OPC came out near the top. In its January/February issue, the slick-paper magazine that covers events around the country, listed the OPC Awards Dinner as one of the 100 top events in New York City and one of the city's top 10 media events.

In his letter to the Club, **David Adler**, CEO and founder of Biz Bash Media, wrote, "With over 130,000 events held annually in New York, it is quite an achievement to have created such a valuable asset for your organization and the community."

Here is what the magazine wrote: "Every year, the Overseas Press Club Award is given to the most inspiring journalists for their courageous and creative international reporting. In 2007, **Katie Couric** presented, with the *Los Angeles Times* winning the most awards. OPC executive director **Sonya Fry** will oversee planning this year, with 450 guests expected to attend the event at the Mandarin Oriental on April 24."

BizBash covers a wide range of what businesses and organizations are doing: trade shows and conventions; the advertising, public relations and entertainment industries; sports; parades; fashion; benefits; restaurants; and political, legal, diplomatic and media events. The OPC was nominated for the magazine's award by **Jane Reilly**, executive director of the OPC Foundation.

(Continued From Page 7)

SYDNEY: After he dropped out of the University of Sydney 64 years ago, the University awarded veteran foreign correspondent **Murray Sayle** with an honorary doctorate of letters last year. A month later, he received the Medal of the Order of Australia, given in the 2007 Queen's Birthday Honors list, "for service to media and communications as a foreign and war correspondent." In his speech accepting the degree, Sayle, 82, said he had planned to major in psychology "but I doubt that I was cut out to be an academic psychologist. Today's proceedings suggest that on the whole the choice that life made for me was not such a bad one, after all."

He has reported from London, Paris, Switzerland, the Middle East, Northern Ireland, China, Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, India, Pakistan, Japan, Africa and Latin America. He filed for Agence France Presse, the *Sunday Times* and the *Times* of London; BBC; PBS; and Australia's ABC; and was Asian editor for *Newsweek International* in Hong Kong. Sayle wrote the 1999 book *The Myth of Hiroshima* and a novel about journalism, *A Crooked Sixpence*. In 1995, the *New Yorker* devoted its entire July 31 issue to Sayle's "Letter from Hiroshima – Did the Bomb End the War?"



Left, Chancellor Kim Santow, conferring the honorary degree to Murray Sayle.

TUNIS: "The media in Tunisia are heavily restricted, and the government actively harasses the few independent journalists who attempt to write critically of the government," **Larry Martz** and **Tala Dowlatshahi** of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee wrote to Tunisia President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in January. Their letter said **Slim Boukhdir**, a blogger whose articles have appeared in *The Nation*, *Tunisnews*, other papers and Web sites, and London-

based *Al-Quds al-Arabi*, was sentenced to eight months in prison for verbally assaulting a public employee and four months for violating public decency.

The journalist, who has written about political corruption, was attacked and beaten by plainclothes police last May 3, World Press Freedom Day, and he was arrested in November. **Joel Simon**, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists, said, "We believe that Slim Boukhdir, like others before him, is being railroaded by the Tunisian justice system for his outspoken writings."

VATICAN CITY: Pope Benedict XVI has praised the mass media for helping spread democracy and knowledge around the world but criticized the media for hyping violence, vulgarity and consumer products.

In a January message, the Pope said, "In order to attract listeners and increase the size of audiences, it [mass media] does not hesitate at times to have recourse to vulgarity and violence, and to overstep the mark." He said media can subject its users to the "dominant interests of the day. That is what happens when communication is used for ideological purposes or for the aggressive advertising of consumer products."

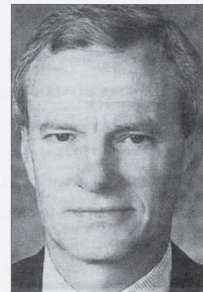
WASHINGTON: A sealed container with remains was found where four correspondents were killed in Laos. The container will be placed in a repository at the Newseum on April 3. War photographers **Larry Burrows**, **Henri Huet**, **Kent Potter**, **Keizaburo Shimamoto** and seven South Vietnamese soldiers were killed in 1971 when their helicopter was shot down in Laos. AP's **Richard Pyle** and **Horst Faas** covered excavation of the crash site 10 years ago and will speak at the ceremony along with family members of the correspondents.

The new Newseum near the U.S. capitol replaces the original one in Arlington, Virginia and will be formally opened April 11.

Dan Southerland, a former UPI, *Washington Post* and *Christian Science Monitor* correspondent in Asia, now is a vice president and executive editor at Radio Free Asia. He writes a Vietnam Web diary and a Cambodia Web diary.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

John (Jack) McWethy, 61, a retired ABC News correspondent who won a 1986 OPC award, was killed February 6 while skiing. Skiing fast on an intermediate trail at a resort in Keystone, Colorado, he missed a turn and slammed chest-first into a tree. After working as a science editor and White House correspondent at *U.S. News & World Report*, McWethy joined ABC News in 1979 as national security correspondent, covering military, terrorism, diplomacy and intelligence affairs. McWethy was in the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 when it was struck by a hijacked passenger plane. He escaped from the building and kept reporting from a nearby lawn. In Afghanistan, McWethy covered a U.S. special forces mission searching caves in Tora Bora, looking for intelligence on Osama Bin Laden's Al Qaeda network. John retired in 2003, and he and his wife, Laurie, moved to Boulder, Colorado to be near ski slopes and golf courses. Laurie has established the John F. McWethy Fellowship in Reporting at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, where both he and his father graduated. "This permanent fellowship is intended to help best-and-brightest students interested in a journalism career attend Columbia, even if they would be unable to do so," an announcement said. "Laurie requests that anyone wishing to memorialize McWethy's life and career with a gift do so via this Columbia University fellowship rather than in other ways."



Raymond Jacobs, 82, believed to be the last surviving member of the U.S. Marine team that raised the first American flag on Iwo Jima, died January 29 of natural causes at a Redding, California hospital. A radio operator, Jacobs appears in the photo of Marines raising a small flag on Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945 during the World War II battle for the Japanese island. A larger flag was raised later that day and was made famous by **Joe Rosenthal's**

AP photo. After the war, Jacobs worked for 34 years as a reporter, anchor and news director at KTVU-TV in Oakland, California, retiring in 1992.



Abraham Brumberg, 81, a writer on Eastern Europe, died of congestive heart failure at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland on January 26. In 1952, Brumberg became the first editor of *Problems of Communism* and was the journal's editor-in-chief until 1970. The journal originally was published by the U.S. Information Agency and now is published by M. E. Sharpe under the name *Problems of Post-Communism*. Brumberg's writings on Eastern Europe appeared in *The New York Times*, *Dissent*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Nation* and elsewhere. He wrote and edited several books. Born in Tel Aviv, Brumberg moved with his family to Poland when he was a child. When the German Nazis invaded Poland in 1939, the family fled to Lithuania and then to Japan before settling in the United States in 1941.



Jack and Rhoda Pritzker, 1968

Rhoda Pritzker, 93, a former reporter in England and the United States and an OPC member since 1955, died December 23 at her winter home in Casey Key, Florida after a long illness. Born in Manchester, England, tuberculosis kept Rhoda out of school until she was 10. She left high school before graduating to start her journalism career. She wrote for several British newspapers and the BBC before immigrating to the United States in 1939. Her family said she wore a life jacket on the passenger ship during the entire Atlantic crossing because of threats from German U-boats. While living in New York City during World War II, Pritzker

Jack Birns, Photographer and OPC Award Winner

Jack Birns arrived in China from the United States in 1947 aboard a troop ship with a pregnant wife and three 10-year-old German cameras. *Life* magazine sent him to China to photograph the civil war. The ruling Nationalist Party had been fighting the Communists for two decades, and Communist troops were gaining ground closer to Shanghai, the country's financial, cultural and commercial capital.

On film, Birns captured the city's crime, poverty, homeless and military rule. But some of his photos upset *Time-Life* publisher **Henry R. Luce**, who was a staunch supporter of the Nationalists. Example: when Birns sent *Life* photos of a Nationalist atrocity, the beheading of a Communist general, Luce ordered that the pictures be pulled from the magazine. Birns' China photos, many of them never before published, appear in his book,

Assignment Shanghai [Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003].

Roy Rowan, former OPC president, and Birns worked together covering China and Southeast Asia when Rowan was a *Life* correspondent, and some of Birns' exploits are mentioned in Roy's book *Chasing the Dragon* [Guilford, Connecticut: The Lyons Press, 2004]. Birns won a 1948 OPC award for best photo coverage, and he remained in China until Shanghai fell to the Communists in 1949. He left *Life* in 1951 and moved to Los Angeles where he started two photo businesses including one that sold equipment to Hollywood film makers. Birns, an OPC member from 1949 to 2006, died February 10 at age 88. His first wife, Shayne, who accompanied him to China, died about 20 years ago. His second wife, Harriet, survives.

Welcome to Our New Members

David A. Andelman
Executive Editor
Forbes.com
Active Resident

John Kelly
Correspondent
Wayne Madsen Report
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident

Kerry Luft
Associate Managing Editor,
Foreign News
Chicago Tribune
Active Non Resident

Shawn Malone
Deputy Country Representative
PACT
Bangkok, Thailand
Associate Overseas - Young

Eugene Piskounov
Director General
NTV America
Active Resident

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE
George Bookman, Chair
David Fondiller
Felice Levin
Linda Goetz Holmes

was a correspondent for the Associated Press, and she once worked as a blackjack dealer in Reno on a magazine assignment. In New York, she met Jack Pritzker on a blind date when he was serving in the U.S. Navy, and they were married in 1943. After the war, they moved to his native Chicago, where he resumed his career in the family law firm and she worked as a freelance journalist, contributing to the *Chicago Sun* and *Ladies Home Journal*. Jack died in 1979. His family founded the Hyatt hotel chain in the 1950s. Daughter of a Gilbert and Sullivan performer and a concert pianist, Pritzker's interest in the arts led her to serve for many years on the board of The Theater School at DePaul

University and on the board of the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art in Florida. "She came from a family of performers, and she absolutely understood what it meant to be an artist trying to make a living while also pursuing your art," said Tessa Craib-Cox, director of development at The Theater School. Pritzker also was a founding board member and major donor to New College in Sarasota.

An advocate for animal rights, she helped establish Chicago's largest animal shelter, Pets Are Worth Saving. Her son, Nick Pritzker, said, "She set extremely high standards for herself and others. She was a deep thinker and extremely dedicated to the causes vital to her."

Fannin Discusses “Hyper Speed” of China’s Innovation

BOOK NIGHT RECAP JAN. 28

by Charles Hack

China’s emerging high-tech industry could soon rival Silicon Valley and spawn the next Steve Jobs, Rebecca A. Fannin told an audience of seasoned reporters when discussing her new book *Silicon Dragon: How China Is Winning the Tech Race* (McGraw-Hill 2008), at Club Quarters on January 28.

Fannin, an international business journalist, traveled to China to profile some of the brightest young Chinese entrepreneurs and venture capitalists who are transforming the country’s nascent but derivative computing industry into one of the most innovative in the world. Her research asserts that any complacency by Silicon Valley will remain unchallenged as the premiere source of Internet goliaths such as Google, Yahoo! and eBay.

“Everything is in hyper speed. I think that China is emerging as another global technology center of the world,” Fannin said. “I think it is a challenger to Silicon Valley, and that Silicon Valley no longer has the monopoly on innovation.”

Since 1999 China has experienced a tech revolution led by “copy-cat” entrepreneurs, educated in the U.S. and returning to China, to start up companies that have supplanted eBay, Google, Myspace in their domestic market, Fannin said.

But now, a new wave of home grown entrepreneurs — educated at local universities such as Tsinghua University and Beijing University — are breaking new ground and attracting investment from venture capitalists who helped bankroll Silicon Valley and later from China itself.

The fiercely competitive Jack Ma, who co-founded a highly successful domestic and international e-commerce market place, Alibaba.com in 1999, set up Taobao.com, a free rival to eBay. By 2005, eBay’s control of the market share had plummeted from 90 percent — which it achieved by swallowing Eachnet.com — to around 30 percent. Fannin says it is now “pretty much dead in China now.”

But Alibaba’s success hasn’t stopped there: In October 2005 it acquired Yahoo! China, which now provides a better range of features for consumers. The Alibaba Group was listed on the Hong Stock Exchange in November 2007.

A recent crop of innovators are developing cutting-edge information technology, including Liu Yingkui, who developed software for selling goods over cell phones, and former Yahoo! China executive Charles Wang, whose company PingCo, had one of the first free instant messaging services for mobile phones.

Although the risk of having new ideas stolen continues to be considered

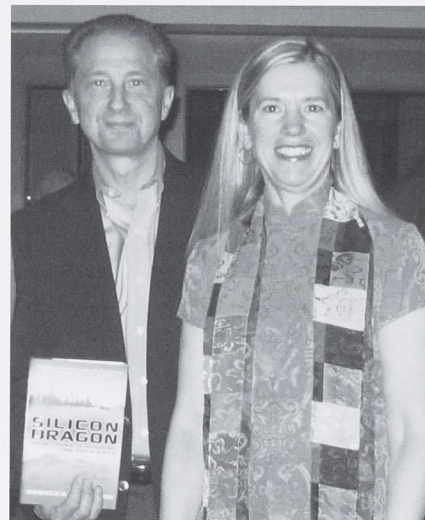


Photo: Charles Hack

Bill Holstein and Rebecca Fannin before the conversation on her book, *Silicon Dragon*.

the “cost of doing business” in China, Fannin said there was a 56 percent jump in patent applications in 2006.

Fannin acknowledges that there are challenges to China’s potential, like corruption, copyright protection, infrastructure and an education system that fails to churn out enough middle managers.

But other factors weigh in their favor: Start up costs are lower in China, and companies benefit from a government that has pledged its commitment to the success of its tech industry, Fannin said, as Chinese businesses have a better understanding of local markets and the needs of the consumers than multinationals.

For OPC members, freedom of speech is always at the front of their concerns. With detention and intimidation of journalists continuing to be of concern in China, Minky Worden, media director for Human Rights Watch and OPC board member, wanted to know how the entrepreneurs are responding to pressure from the government to hand over personal client information of people they consider to be dissidents.

Fannin said that she had noticed a different “mind-set” where entrepreneurs would readily hand over personal information if they thought they are serving the interest of the community. She said that although she had not experienced direct pressure she noted that Internet censorship is widespread — and many Internet searches “end up blank” — including her own Web site.

Russia Insists Reporter’s Death Was Suicide

(Continued From Page 1)

the death, reminding him of the toll of murdered journalists since he came to office, including the indomitable Anna Politkovskaya in October 2006. The OPC called on Putin “to find out, urgently and definitively, whether Ivan Safronov’s name must be added to that tragic list — and if so, to bring his killer to justice.”

The committee repeated its concerns about Safronov in three further letters protesting other cases during the year. When Russian newspapers reported that the investigators had indeed ruled the death a suicide, the committee warned Putin that until all the evidence in the case was disclosed, “suspicion will persist that there was foul play.”

A reply, dated October 5, 2007,

arrived in the OPC office on February 5. The words above were signed by E.V. Chetagurov, who identified himself as an overseer of branches dealing with internal events and the law.

Sadly, it is what we have come to expect from Vladimir Putin’s Russia. Putin came to office with promises to install democratic institutions, specifically including press freedom. He has repeated those promises many times, as recently as his press conference a year ago, when he said: “For our country...the issue of journalist persecution is one of the most pressing. And we realize our degree of responsibility in this. We will do everything to protect the press corps.”

Less than a month later, Safronov was dead.

Scholarship Winners *(Continued From Page 3)*

Paul Sonne

University of Oxford

STAN SWINTON SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by the Swinton Family.

Presented by Helen and Donald Swinton

A Columbia University graduate, Sonne is now pursuing a master's in philosophy as a Marshall scholar at the University of Oxford. Fluent in Russian, Sonne will return to Russia this summer as an OPC Foundation intern for the Associated Press Moscow bureau. In his essay, Sonne wrote about his experiences observing Georgia's efforts at democracy, seen through the perspective of two administrations, whose leaders – both intolerant of opposition – seemed incapable of learning from the past.

Sarah Mishkin

Yale University

EMANUEL R. FREEDMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by family. Presented by his son, Eric Freedman

Mishkin wrote about her efforts to discover what remains of an Egyptian Jewish culture that has been part of Cairo's history since medieval times. A senior at Yale and an Arabic speaker, Mishkin hopes to return to Egypt to report on the social transformations within that country, the communities and social lives of those living on the margins, and specifically the discrimination Sudanese immigrants face.

Alexandra Suich

Yale University

THEO WILSON SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by donations from family and friends.

Presented by family friend, Barbara Burns.

After graduating in May, Suich hopes to return to Africa to report on the lives of African women, the "continent's forgotten people." Fluent in French and proficient in Swahili, she just returned from a semester break in Kenya covering the tumultuous elections. Her essay told the tragic story of a Kenyan AIDS victim still struggling to maintain the health of her child.

Rollo Romig

New York University

ROY ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP

Endowed by family, friends and admirers. Presented by Roy Rowan.

Rollo intends to cover "the aftermath – what works and what fails when it comes to post-conflict reckoning and reconciliation." A graduate of Columbia College in Chicago, Romig wrote about efforts of Liberian forestry officials to protect the country's natural resources, despite corrupt regimes and exploitation. Romig is a recipient of an OPC Foundation internship and will travel next fall to Phnom Penh to work for *The Cambodia Daily*.

Devon Haynie

Columbia University

FLORA LEWIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by the Pierre F. Simon Charitable Trust.

Presented by Jacqueline Albert-Simon.

Haynie would like to continue to write about human rights in conflict-ridden or post-conflict countries. Haynie wrote in her essay about a Kosovar cameraman and guide on a project she investigated in the Balkans. A graduate of Colgate University, she recently received a master's in journalism from Columbia University. She is the recipient of an OPC Foundation internship and will travel to South Africa in March to work in the Associated Press bureau in Johannesburg.

Yu Sun

New York University

S&P AWARD FOR ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS REPORTING

Sponsored by Standard & Poor's. Presented by David Blitzer, Managing Director and Chairman of the Index Committee.

A graduate student in business and economic reporting, Sun wants to investigate how the establishment of research and development centers by multinationals will affect China's innovative capacity and overall economic development. A graduate of Fudan University in Shanghai, the former news researcher for *Financial Times* wrote about the perils Chinese energy companies face when investing in developing countries.

New Books:

(Continued From Page 12)

ed those of China." A former editor at *The Financial Times* in London and *Forbes* in New York, Fingleton was posted to Tokyo as East Asia bureau chief for *Euromoney* in 1985. He was a member of a 1986 New York Stock Exchange delegation to Beijing, where they met supreme leader Deng Xiaoping.

MIDDLE EAST

"AS OF THIS WRITING [October 2007], the United States and Iran appear headed, at best, for a cold war of nerves and sanctions; at worst, to a conflict that would destabilize what is left of

the 'old' Middle East. A nuclear Iran is not a pleasant prospect, but a preemptive U.S. attack on Iran might be even more costly." That's what **Barbara Slavin** wrote in *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies: Iran, the U.S.A., and the Twisted Path to Confrontation* [New York: St. Martin's Press]. Slavin, *U.S. Today's* senior diplomatic correspondent since 1996, has been reporting on the Middle East for years. She portrays Iran as a country that both adores and fears America, has a deep sense of its own historical and regional importance, and where many Iranians idolize American pop culture while clinging to their own traditions. Slavin wrote, "Even the mayor of Tehran, Gholamhossein Karbaschi, after listing a long catalog of U.S. abuses, confided that

he had visited New York twice and said, 'I like your Broadway Street.'"

The publisher wrote, "The U.S. charges Iran is developing nuclear weapons, is supporting terrorists inside Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East and is repressing its own people, who, U.S. officials say, 'deserve better.' Slavin contends the Bush administration may be suffering from the same lack of understanding and foresight that led it to invade Iraq." A Harvard graduate in Russian language and literature, Slavin studied at Leningrad State University in 1972, reported for *The Economist* from Cairo and Beijing, and also has written for *The New York Times*, *Business Week* and UPI.

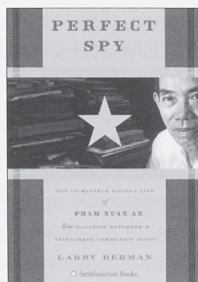
— by Al Kaff

New Books

ASIA

“WHY DID ONE OF THE GREAT spies of our century allow me to be his American biographer?” That’s what **Larry Berman**, a political science professor at the University of California at Davis, wondered. In 2001 in Saigon’s Givral coffee shop, a gathering place for correspondents, police and government officials, Berman asked **Pham Xuan An**, a Reuters and *Time* correspondent during the Vietnam War, for permission to write his biography. The professor later wrote, “I beseeched An to recognize that his biography should be written by a historian like myself and not just by journalists in Vietnam, where the censorship boards he ridiculed still operated. An looked me straight in the eyes and said ‘OK,’ telling me that he respected my [three] previous books on Vietnam and he hoped young people in America could learn from his life about the war.”

From that conversation came



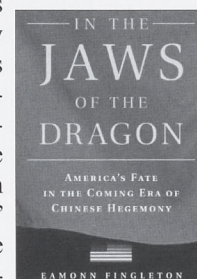
Berman’s *Perfect Spy: The Incredible Double Life of Pham Xuan An, Time Magazine Reporter and Vietnamese Communist Agent* [Smithsonian Books/Harper Collins]. The book’s Website said: “During the Vietnam War, *Time* reporter Pham Xuan An befriended everyone who was anyone in Saigon, including American journalists such as **David Halberstam** and **Neil Sheehan**, the CIA’s William Colby, and the legendary Colonel Edward Lansdale not to mention the most influential members of the South Vietnamese government and military. None of them ever guessed that he was also providing strategic intelligence to Hanoi, smuggling invisible ink messages to the jungle inside egg rolls.”

An attended Orange Coast College in California, where he earned an Associate of Arts degree and wrote for the campus newspaper *The Barnacle*. The Communist Party recruited him as espionage agent X6 and decided that a career in journalism would be his best cover. His successes earned him a promotion to major general and Hero of the People’s Army, one of only two North Vietnamese intelligence officers to win those honors during the war. Berman browsed through An’s library and found books with inscriptions praising him from **Neil Sheehan**, **Robert Shaplen**, **Stanley Karnow** and other correspondents. An died of emphysema in 2006, he was 79.

American relations. That’s what OPC member **Eamonn Fingleton** writes in *In the Jaws of the Dragon: America’s Fate in the Coming Era of Chinese Hegemony* [New York: St. Martin’s Press/Thomas Dunne Books]. “Not only has corporate America systematically hidden from the American public the downside of Sino-American relations but it has actively boosted the careers of elected representatives and commentators who promote China’s agenda in the United States,” Fingleton wrote. He contends that companies that have carried out this deception include Coca-Cola, McDonald’s, KFC, Boeing, AT&T and American International Group. “Americans are competing with a Chinese system that they do not understand,” he continues. He challenges the conventional American view that as Chinese living standards rise, China will become increasingly Western in its politics and economics.

He writes, “As China moves to displace the United States as the world’s premier superpower, the implications for American sovereignty and American values are devastating. For more than two decades the United States has been deceived into pursuing policies that have not been only extremely injurious to its own interests but have powerfully boost-

(Continued on Page 11)



TO EARN PROFITS in China, big U.S. corporations are deceiving Americans on the downside of Sino-

Save the Dates:

Pete Hamill
Editor of A.J. Liebling’s World
War II Writings
Monday, March 31
6 to 8 p.m.
NYU Journalism School

OPC Awards Dinner
Thursday, April 24
Mandarin Oriental Hotel
New York City

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA